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<u>ABSTRACT</u>

Two measures are provided in order to allow a serial bus system to be operated such that it is resistant to interference and defects, and such that it operates with low power consumption. Firstly, each transmitted digital signal is interpreted as a logic zero or a logic one, respectively, when a first or a second predetermined current waveform, respectively, is applied to a bus line. Secondly, the bus system is operable in an energy saving mode, in which either no data transmissions at all are made, or in which data transmissions are made only rarely, between the individual bus modules.